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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

April is National STD Awareness Month: Get Tested

In Nevada, the number of STDs is up; often there are no symptoms

Carson City – April is STD (sexually transmitted disease) Awareness Month, and according to Nevada State Health Division officials, the timing is excellent. The purpose of STD Awareness Month is to remind all sexually active persons of the importance of preventing, testing for, and treating STDs. In Nevada during 2011, there was a significant increase in the number of new cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary syphilis.

“People can have an STD and not even know it,” said Tracey D. Green M.D., Nevada State Health Officer. “This is why all sexually active people should be tested annually, especially women between 15 and 24.” The 15-24 age group accounts for nearly half of new STD cases. Healthcare providers are encouraged to create safe environments for talking with young patients and educating them about sexual health and STD prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea among sexually active women 25 years of age and younger. “If a young woman’s doctor does not discuss these screenings, she should be proactive and start the conversation,” said Green.

Untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea can impact a woman’s ability to have children. In Nevada, chlamydia cases were up 6% in 2011 and gonorrhea cases went up by 11%.


STD Awareness Month is to remind everyone to get adequately tested and treated. Because STDs are often without signs or symptoms, knowing your status is vital to preventing serious health consequences and increased transmission among all populations. Act now and contact a physician or clinic near you to be tested for STDs. Testing is easy and confidential, usually requiring just a finger stick for blood or a urine (noninvasive) sample. Call a nearby health clinic or lab for hours, prices and specials that may run during STD Awareness Month.

Please join the Nevada State Health Division, State AIDS Task Force, Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County Health District, Carson City Health and Human Services, the University of Nevada, Reno, Northern Nevada Outreach Team and many community based organizations throughout Nevada in observing April as National STD Awareness Month.

For more information, please call Lazara Paz at 702-486-0485 or visit www.health.nv.gov/CD_HIV_STDPrograms.htm or www.cdc.gov/std/sam.

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